

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI
SOUTHERN DIVISION**

DON YORK, BEVERLY YORK, JACOB
STRADLING, ALISHA YORK-STRADLING,
JACK HARVEY, and JUDY HARVEY,
individually and on behalf all others similarly
situated,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

NORTHROP GRUMMAN CORPORATION
GUIDANCE AND ELECTRONICS
COMPANY INC. and NORTHROP
GRUMMAN CORPORATION,

Defendants.

Court File No.: T/B/D

Judge: T/B/D

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

Plaintiffs Don York, Beverly York, Alisha York-Stradling, Jacob Stradling, Jack Harvey, and Judy Harvey, individually and on behalf of those similarly situated (“Plaintiffs”), for their Class Action Complaint against Northrop Grumman Corporation Guidance and Electronics Company Inc. and Northrop Grumman Corporation (collectively “Northrop Grumman” or “Defendants”) state as follows:

Introduction

1. Defendants own, operate, and/or are legally responsible for a former Litton Systems Inc. site at 4811 W. Kearney St. in Springfield, Missouri.

2. Plaintiffs, tenants, and owner-occupants of real property in Springfield, Missouri, and those similarly situated, bring this action for damages and injunction against Defendants for Defendants' unreasonable negligence, temporary and permanent nuisance, trespass, and preliminary and permanent injunction, based on TCE contamination emanating from Litton Systems Inc. property (the "Contamination Site")—a site that despite almost 40 years of reclamation, still is a source of dangerous TCE.

3. The Contamination Site has caused an increase in concentration of TCE¹ in an expanding amount of land and ground water surrounding the Site and throughout portions of Springfield.

4. Unbeknownst to the Plaintiffs and through no fault of their own, for years, Plaintiffs' property has been exposed to TCE from the Contamination Site. Due to only recently being informed of the risk of TCE and the actual presence of TCE on their property, Plaintiffs are and have been unable to fully enjoy the use of their properties and have suffered annoyance and discomfort. For example, Plaintiffs' well-water is contaminated with unsafe levels of TCE thereby preventing Plaintiffs from using well water as they would like (e.g., without the need for treatment systems which changed the taste of the water). Further, Plaintiffs have suffered a diminution in property value solely due to TCE contamination.

5. Also, upon information and belief, through regular use of their well water, Plaintiffs have been exposed to unsafe levels of TCE for over a decade. Such long-term exposure to TCE have caused health concerns and anxiety. Had Plaintiffs been made aware of such TCE

¹ While Plaintiffs refer to the contaminants as TCE throughout, there were other contaminants released by the Litton Site, including but not limited to copper. Although the focus of this complaint is on TCE, all contaminants from the TCE Contamination Site are at issue in this action.

contamination, they would not have used their well water, purchased their properties, or spent money improving their properties.

6. As shown below, Defendants knew since at least 2004 of TCE contamination of the Springfield Aquifer, the Ozark Aquifer, and at least one “private well,” and yet withheld this information from Plaintiffs, the Classes, and the public.

7. Because of this lack of disclosure, the concentration of TCE that Plaintiffs were exposed to by using their properties and well water exceeded regulatory limits.

8. Further, any concentration of TCE within Plaintiffs’ and the Classes’ properties will be required to be disclosed to potential buyers should Plaintiffs and the Classes choose to sell their properties. Because TCE concentrations are present, the value of Plaintiffs’ and the Classes’ properties have diminished and, in some cases, their properties are worthless.

9. Further, certain Plaintiffs have experienced other economic losses as described below.

The Parties and Venue

10. Plaintiffs Don and Beverly York are owners of improved real property located on 2225 North Plainview Avenue in Springfield, Missouri. Plaintiffs Don and Beverly York have owned the property since 2006. While owning this property, they drank well water, bathed in well water, washed their clothing in well water, and cooked with well water—water now determined to be contaminated with unsafe levels of TCE.

11. Plaintiffs Alisha York-Stradling and Jacob Stradling were tenants at Don and Beverly York’s improved real property, running a business from the location starting in 2018.

Plaintiffs Alisha York-Stradling and Jacob Stradling were tenants and worked from this address from 2018 until 2021. Jacob Stradling worked approximately 70 hours a week from

this property during this time, many nights sleeping at the property. Alisha York-Stradling would sometimes work 40 hours a week there.

12. While there, Plaintiffs Alisha York-Stradling and Jacob Stradling spent \$125,000 improving the property. They also drank well water, bathed in well water, washed their clothing in well water, and cooked with well water—water now determined to be contaminated with unsafe levels of TCE.

13. Plaintiffs Jack and Judy Harvey are homeowners of improved real property located at 2224 North Plainview Drive. Plaintiffs own a home on this property and have resided at this address for at least over 20 years. While they resided at this property, they drank well water, bathed in well water, washed their clothing in well water, and cooked with well water—water now determined to be contaminated with unsafe levels of TCE.

14. Upon information and belief, Defendant Northrop Grumman Corporation is a Delaware Corporation, with its principal place of business at 55 Thiokol Rd, Elkton, MD 21921. Defendant Northrop Grumman Corporation conducts business in the State of Missouri.

15. Upon information and belief, Defendant Northrop Grumman Corporation acquired the Litton Systems property in Springfield when it bought the parent company, Litton Industries, for \$5.1 billion in 2001.

16. Upon information and belief, Defendant Northrop Grumman Corporation Guidance and Electronics Company Inc. is a subsidiary of Northrop Grumman Corporation. Upon information and belief, Defendant Northrop Grumman Corporation Guidance and Electronics Company Inc. has a principal place of business at Falls Church, Virginia. Upon information and belief, Defendant Northrop Grumman Corporation Guidance and Electronics Company Inc. conducts business in the State of Missouri.

17. Defendants have owned, operated, and/or are legally responsible for the Contamination Site for all times relevant to this Petition, but at least as early as 2001.

18. To the extent Defendants were not owners or operators of the Contamination Site before the events relevant to this case, they (or their employees or agents) have been working directly with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (“DNR”) and the Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) regarding the TCE contamination since 2001.

19. To the extent Defendants were not operators of the Contamination Site before the events relevant to this case, they (or their employees or agents) otherwise worked with the Contamination Site and/or have been involved with the decision-making regarding operations and/or cleanup of the Contamination Site since they acquired legal responsibility for the site in 2001.

20. Alternatively, Defendant Northrop Grumman Corporation is the alter ego of Northrop Grumman Corporation Guidance and Electronics Company Inc. Consequently, one or both of those Defendants are vicariously liable for the actions of the Contamination Site.

21. Jurisdiction is proper in this Court under 28 U.S. Code § 1332(d)(2).

22. Venue is proper pursuant to §508.010 RSMo.

Factual Background

The Danger of TCE

23. The federal government has linked TCE to health problems including kidney cancer, liver cancer, and non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma. It can also be a cause of non-cancerous problems for the immune and nervous systems, the kidneys and liver, the male reproductive system, and fetal tissue.

24. As a DNR spokesperson stated at a 2019 public forum discussing TCE issues in Springfield, MO, government regulatory limits on chemicals like TCE are “based in part on science and in part on lobbying and concerns by people.”² The EPA limit for TCE in liquid water — 5 parts per billion — should be viewed in that light, he said. “It doesn’t mean it’s safe at 4.9 and harmful at 5.1,” he said. “It’s like a speed limit. Anytime you move, you have some risk of an accident.”

25. An EPA, internal memoranda from 2021 confirmed “Over the past few years...political interference sometimes compromised the integrity of our science.” One such example was reporting on the dangers of TCE:

White House staff directed OCSPP career staff to alter the draft TCE risk evaluation to change the point of departure used for making determinations of risk to a less sensitive endpoint. While the risk evaluation included a description of the more sensitive endpoint (fetal heart malformations), it was no longer used to determine whether there is unreasonable risk from TCE. Unreasonable risks were nevertheless identified for most uses of TCE, but the magnitude of the risk from exposures to TCE would have been greater had EPA relied upon the fetal cardiac defect endpoint that had been used in previous EPA peer-reviewed assessments.³

26. Thus, even levels that the EPA contend are “safe” can harm.

27. TCE can move thousands of feet per day through groundwater systems, especially in cave-rich/karst topography like the land near the Contamination Site. This means, through no fault of other property owners, their properties can become contaminated with TCE.

² “DNR official at public forum: ‘I apologize’ for how Missouri handled TCE pollution,” Springfield News-Leader (2019) from <https://www.news-leader.com/story/news/local/ozarks/2019/03/15/springfield-greene-county-pollution-dnr-tce-litton-systems/3133068002/> (last viewed June 4, 2021).

³ EPA Memorandum on Scientific Integrity (2021) from <https://www2.dtn.com/ag/assets/EPA-Memorandum-Scientific-Integrity.pdf> (last viewed June 4, 2021).

TCE Contamination Within Springfield, MO

28. Litton Systems Inc. began manufacturing printed circuit boards in the 1960s in a site located at 4811 W. Kearney St. in Springfield on approximately 70 acres of land just east of the Springfield-Branson National Airport.

29. This site is less than a quarter mile from Plaintiffs' properties.

30. At this site, Litton utilized TCE in its manufacturing process to clean circuit boards.

31. Through its day-to-day operations, the Litton facility generated waste containing metals, predominantly copper, and volatile organic compounds such as TCE.

32. Until the early '80s, the Litton facility managed wastes in a series of on-site waste management units consisting of shallow lagoons, waste piles, and pits. This waste management procedure did not fully contain the materials.

33. In a 1982 lawsuit, Missouri state attorneys alleged that Litton failed to keep water in the lagoon at required levels, that Litton increased the lagoon's capacity by 25 percent without getting the necessary permit, and that the company did not install a groundwater monitoring program to warn of possible contamination.

34. Contamination in Springfield is especially troubling as its geography consists of an extensive network of voids, caverns, and sinkholes in the shallow bedrock, and springs that surface at various points. This "karst" geology provides selective pathways for contamination to potentially travel farther than in soil or saturated groundwater zones. In karst geology, groundwater contaminant plumes are difficult to delineate because they often do not follow a predictable pattern.

35. On Aug. 18, 1983, the Springfield News-Leader in discussing the Missouri state attorney lawsuit reported that "Although state officials could not tie those toxic wastes to any

contamination of nearby wells...they argued it would only be a matter of time if seepage continued.”⁴ As will be shown, since 1983, contamination of wells has occurred due to Defendants’ failure to contain TCE seepage.

36. According to DNR, in 1983 Litton agreed to pay a \$50,000 fine for violations of Missouri’s hazardous waste management law because of the groundwater pollution. Litton also drained the lagoon and spent \$250,000 to clean up the site. Upon information and belief, this agreement settled the lawsuit.

37. Upon information and belief, as part of the settlement, a network of monitoring wells and extractions wells were put in place under DNR oversight.

38. Despite these steps, Defendants failed to remediate the Contamination Site and TCE spread beyond the Litton plant.

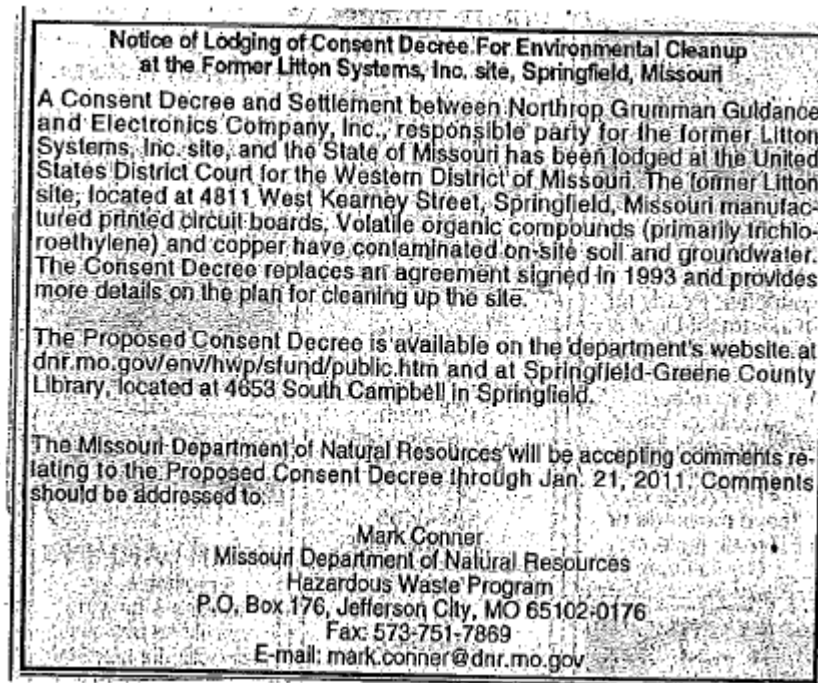
Defendants are the Responsible Parties for the Contamination Site.

39. In 2001, Northrop Grumman acquired the Litton Systems property in Springfield when it bought the parent company, Litton Industries, for \$5.1 billion. At the time of purchase, Defendants were aware of the TCE contamination.

40. With this purchase, Northrop Grumman became the legally responsible party for the Contamination Site.

⁴ “DNR official at public forum: ‘I apologize’ for how Missouri handled TCE pollution,” Springfield News-Leader (2019) from <https://www.news-leader.com/story/news/local/ozarks/2019/03/15/springfield-greene-county-pollution-dnr-tce-litton-systems/3133068002/> (last viewed June 4, 2021).

41. On or about 2001, notices of consent decree were published in the Springfield News Leader stating that Northrop Grumman Guidance and Electronics Company, Inc. is the “responsible party” for the site.



42. According to this publication, “Volatile organic compound (primarily trichloroethylene) and copper have contaminated on-site soil and groundwater.”

43. As the legally responsible parties for the site, Defendants have been and are working with DNR to remedy and stop the spread of TCE contamination.

Despite Decades of Attempted Remediation, TCE has Spread from the Contamination Site.

44. After 2001, public attention about the Contamination Site was limited, in most part due to a lack of disclosures from the Defendants and DNR.

45. Public attention only focused again on TCE from the Contamination Site due to DNR testing at a tourist attraction called Fantastic Caverns. DNR testing at Fantastic Caverns

discovered TCE vapor had reached lower parts of the cave system. Upon information and belief, this testing was performed in 2016-2017.

46. After the discovery of TCE in Fantastic Caverns, DNR tested wells around the Contamination Site. Upon information and belief, those tests began in 2018.

47. Although during the 1982 lawsuit, DNR could not identify any TCE contamination in nearby wells, that changed: starting in 2018, TCE was detected in numerous wells.

48. In view of this, DNR offered free well testing for property owners within the TCE contamination focus zone for areas near the former Litton site.

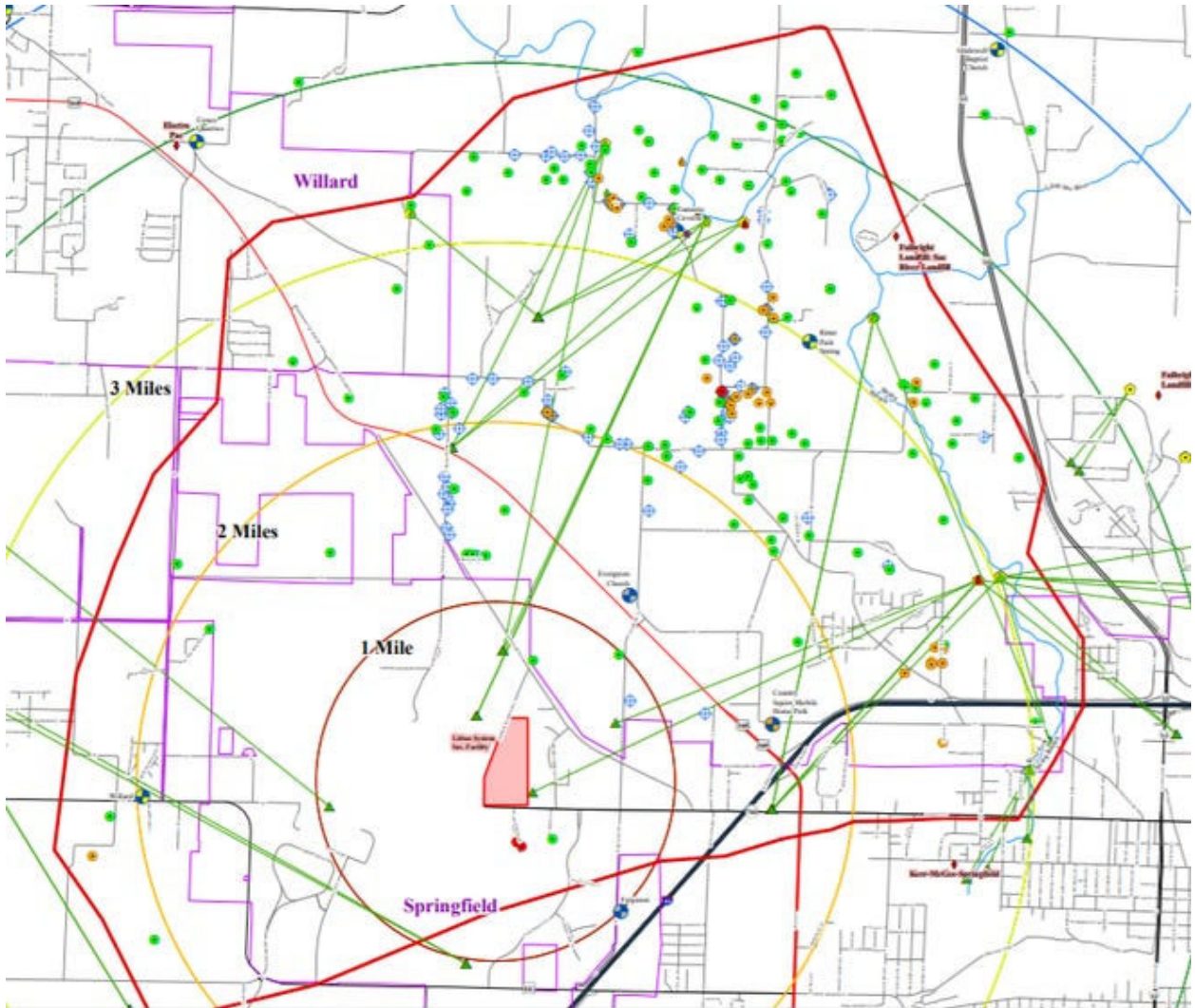
49. To date, DNR has received several hundred requests to test private water wells for the presence of TCE.

50. Where tests have found TCE in private wells, DNR and Defendants have scheduled either quarterly or monthly follow ups to continue testing the wells. This is because test results for TCE on wells vary over time, meaning a well that might test below the maximum contaminant level (MCL)⁵ for TCE for one test, might test above the MCL for the next (or a following) test.

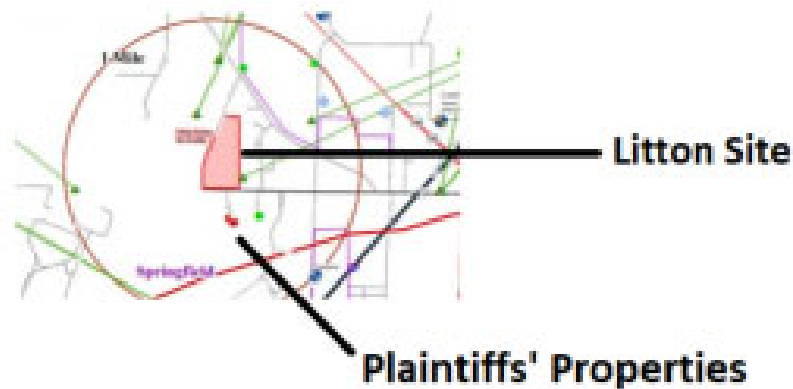
51. Tom Aley, a hydrogeologist with Ozarks Underground Laboratory who consults on groundwater issues nationwide, worked with Fantastic Caverns to address its TCE issues. In a presentation he gave at a 2019 public forum at the Ozark Empire Fairgrounds, Aley told residents that TCE can move thousands of feet per day through groundwater systems, especially in cave-rich karst topography like the land near the Litton site.

⁵ Maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) are standards set by the EPA for drinking water quality. An MCL is the legal threshold limit on the amount of a substance that is allowed in public water systems under the Safe Drinking Water Act. The limit is usually expressed as a concentration in milligrams or micrograms per liter of water. For TCE, it is 5 µg/L or 5 ppb.

52. At the public forum, Aley also displayed the below map showing the results of DNR's TCE testing.



53. The yellow dots denote wells contaminated with TCE; red dots denote wells with levels of TCE contamination above a safe level. The red line denotes the focus area where DNR offered free water well testing for TCE. Plaintiffs' properties are denoted on the map as the two red dots just below the Litton site.



54. As can be seen from the map, in a 21-square mile area around the Litton site, DNR found detectable quantities of TCE in 24 percent of water wells it tested.

55. Positive tests confirm that TCE is present at a minimum under the land of Springfield property owners that they did not know about, or put there, and has the potential for harm.

56. TCE vapor will affect homes and businesses in the area, though the extent will not be known unless DNR and Northrop Grumman conduct more targeted testing for vapor, along with groundwater sampling.

57. According to DNR, TCE contamination has been found in the two layers of water — the shallow Springfield Plateau Aquifer, about 115 feet deep, and the much deeper Ozark Aquifer, which is some 600 feet below the surface. Local wells use one or both aquifers for their water supply.

58. This TCE contamination came as a surprise to Springfield property owners. At a 2019 public forum at the Ozark Empire Fairgrounds a Missouri DNR official apologized for the way the state—and necessarily for the Defendants—handled the TCE contamination.

“For those people for whom this came as a surprise, especially for those who had TCE in their (water) wells and didn’t know it, I apologize,” Galbraith said. “We

didn't tell people about it in a timely manner. We're here in part to make amends."⁶

59. A 2020 Northrup Grumman report to the Missouri DNR report confirmed TCE contamination is still an issue for Springfield.

What
We
Know

Groundwater and Springs

- TCE is present on the Site in the Springfield and Ozark aquifers
- TCE is present on the airport in the Springfield and Ozark aquifers
- TCE is present in domestic wells to the North, East, and South of the site
- TCE is present in springs to the North and East of the site

Ex. A, Technical Update and Conceptual Path Forward, Northrop Grumman Missions Systems Presentation (Jan. 2020) at 75.

60. Worse, the report does not provide a favorable prognosis for remedying the contamination.

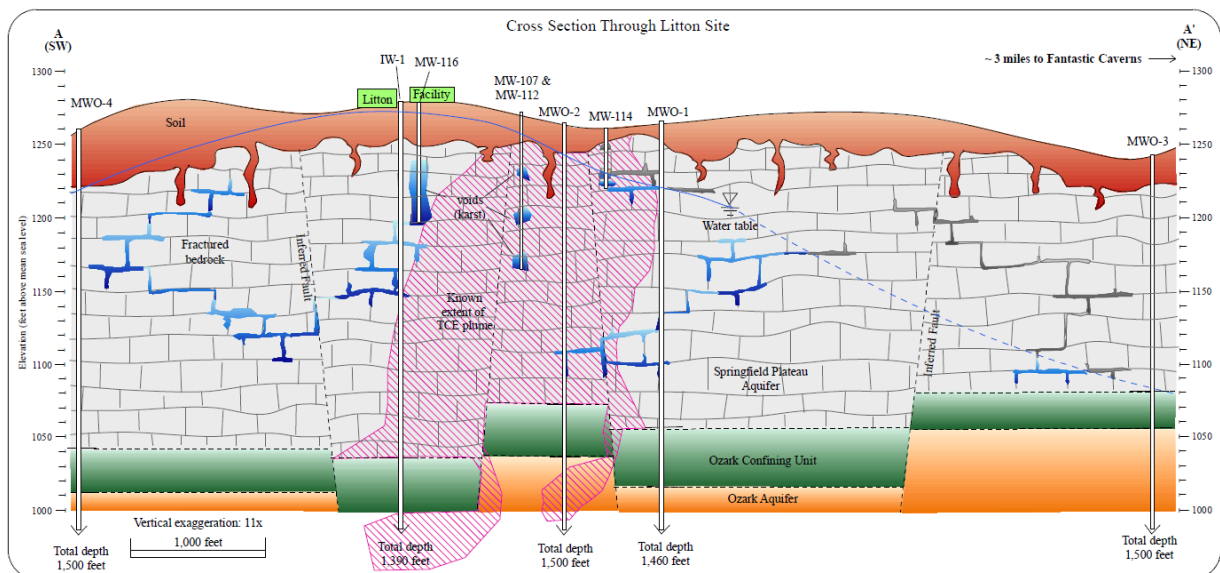
⁶ “DNR official at public forum: ‘I apologize’ for how Missouri handled TCE pollution,” Springfield News-Leader (2019) from <https://www.news-leader.com/story/news/local/ozarks/2019/03/15/springfield-greene-county-pollution-dnr-tce-litton-systems/3133068002/> (last viewed June 4, 2021).

What We Know

- It is technically infeasible to hydraulically capture contaminant mass in the karst system under dynamic flow conditions

Id. at 82.

61. MDNR documents show the extent of the contamination still being dealt. After decades, a large TCE plume remains below the Litton site “in soil, shallow bedrock, and deep bedrock.” Ex. B.



These same documents confirm that contaminated groundwater from the Site “enters karst conduits and travels long distances rapidly,” taking only three days to reach Fantastic

Caverns three miles away. *Id.* Further, the contaminated “shallow groundwater off gasses as it travels to springs.” *Id.* In other words, the Contaminated Site is still a dangerous source of TCE.

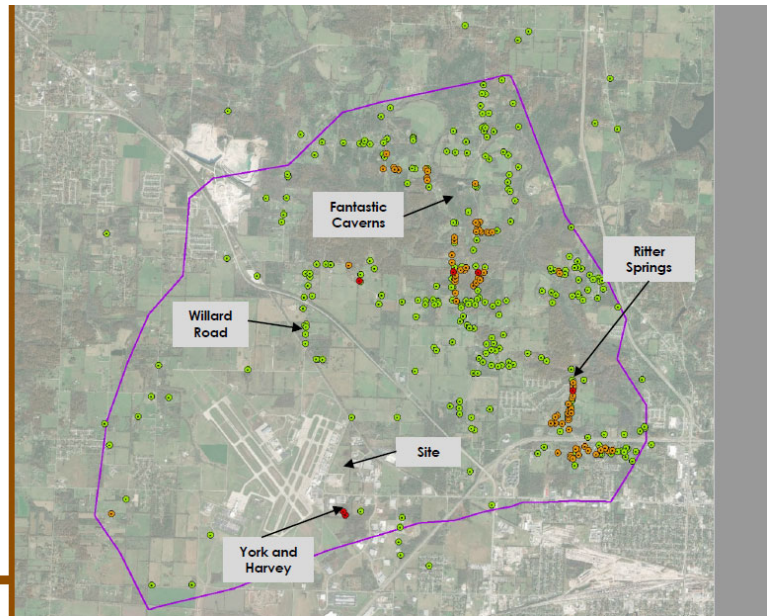
62. Also concerning, in 2020 the Defendants admitted they did not understand how TCE spread to many sites in Springfield, including, the Plaintiffs’ sites by name.

1. How is TCE getting from the Site to Domestic Wells:
 - a) East of the Site near Ritter Springs?
 - b) North of the Site near Fantastic Caverns?
 - c) South of the Site (York and Harvey Wells)?

Ex. A at 86.

63. Further, this same 2020 report specifically addressed Plaintiffs’ properties by name in a slide entitled “Overview of *Key Site Features*.” (Emphasis added).

Overview of Key Site Features



Id. at 41. This is an admission that the York and Harvey properties for DNR *and the Defendants* are “Key Sites” when it comes to TCE contamination.

64. Defendants have had at least two decades to remediate the Contamination Site and to prevent the spread of TCE. As can be seen due to the numerous positive well tests for TCE, Defendants have failed and refused to fully remediate the TCE contamination despite the potential dangers and daily annoyance and distress to Plaintiffs and those similarly situated. Defendants also failed to timely warn Plaintiffs, the Classes, and the public of the spread of TCE from the Contamination Site through the Ozark and Springfield Aquifers and, as discussed in greater detail below, into at least one known “private well.” Because of this, and through no fault of their own, innocent third parties’ properties are ruined, and their health jeopardized.

65. Although in 1983 there was no “contamination of nearby wells,” through mismanagement of the site, not just nearby wells, but wells throughout Springfield have tested positive for TCE.

66. As the responsible parties, Defendants owed a duty to Springfield residents to prevent the spread of TCE and to bring awareness of the spread to the community. They have failed.

TCE Contamination to Plaintiffs’ Properties

67. Plaintiffs’ wells were not tested by DNR until late 2018. When asked why it took so long to test Plaintiffs’ wells, DNR answered: 1) both the Yorks and Harveys had city addresses, and therefore DNR assumed both were on city water (in other words, that both did not have wells), and 2) DNR assumed that water in the aquifers below Plaintiffs’ property flowed to the North and East and because the Plaintiffs’ property was south of the Contaminated Site

(despite being less than a quarter mile from the Contaminated Site), it was safe. Both assumptions were wrong.

68. When Plaintiffs' wells were tested, they had some of the highest levels of TCE of all tested wells. For example, the results of the York residence were as high as 87 µg/L—over 17 times higher than the 5 µg/L MCL.

455	Mthly	2225 North Plainview Road	MoDNR	12/4/2018	524.2	64.2
	System Sampling		NGC	12/21/2018	8260	87
	System Sampling		NGC	12/21/2018	8260	ND
	System Sampling		NGC	1/14/2019	624 low	14
	System Sampling		NGC	1/14/2019	624 low	ND
	System Sampling		NGC	2/18/2019	8260	8.3
	System Sampling		NGC	2/18/2019	8260	ND
	System Sampling		NGC	3/22/2019	8260	4.3
	System Sampling		NGC	3/22/2019	8260	ND
	System Sampling		NGC	4/29/2019	8260	3.3
	System Sampling		NGC	4/29/2019	8260	ND
	System Sampling		NGC	5/29/2019	8260	3.9
	System Sampling		NGC	5/29/2019	8260	ND
	System Sampling		NGC	6/28/2019	8260	12.2
	System Sampling		NGC	6/28/2019	8260	ND
	System Sampling		NGC	8/13/2019	8260	10.9
	System Sampling		NGC	8/13/2019	8260	ND
	System Sampling		MoDNR	8/13/2019	8260	18.4
	System Sampling		MoDNR	8/13/2019	8260	ND
	System Sampling		NGC	11/13/2019	8260	6.8
	System Sampling		NGC	11/13/2019	8260	ND
	System Sampling		NGC	2/17/2020	8260	3.4
	System Sampling		NGC	2/17/2020	8260	ND
	System Sampling		NGC	2/17/2020	8260	4.3
	System Sampling		NGC	2/17/2020	8260	ND

System Sampling	NGC	5/19/2020	8260	0.42 J
System Sampling	NGC	5/19/2020	8260	ND
System Sampling	NGC	6/19/2020	8260	1.4
System Sampling	NGC	6/19/2020	8260	ND
System Sampling	NGC	6/19/2020	8260	1.3
System Sampling	NGC	6/19/2020	8260	ND
System Sampling	NGC	8/19/2020	8260	NA
System Sampling	NGC	8/19/2020	8260	ND
System Sampling	NGC	8/19/2020	8260	10.2
System Sampling	NGC	8/19/2020	8260	ND

Similarly, the Harvey residence has been tested as high as 79.6 µg/L:

MoDNR	12/4/2018	524.2	47.7	NA	2.45
NGC	12/21/2018	8260	37	2.1	2.1
NGC	12/21/2018	8260	ND	ND	ND
NGC	1/14/2019	624 low	22	NA	1.1
NGC	1/14/2019	624 low	ND	NA	ND
NGC	2/18/2019	8260	64.7	3.8	3.8
NGC	2/18/2019	8260	ND	ND	ND
NGC	3/22/2019	8260	79.6	5.4	5.4
NGC	3/22/2019	8260	ND	ND	ND
NGC	4/29/2019	8260	19.3	1.1	1.1
NGC	4/29/2019	8260	ND	ND	ND
NGC	5/29/2019	8260	28.9	1.6	1.6
NGC	5/29/2019	8260	ND	ND	ND
NGC	6/28/2019	8260	74.4	4.6	4.6
NGC	6/28/2019	8260	ND	ND	ND
NGC	8/14/2019	8260	49.1	2.9	2.9
NGC	8/14/2019	8260	ND	ND	ND
MoDNR	8/14/2019	8260	45.0	NA	2.58
MoDNR	8/14/2019	8260	ND	NA	ND
NGC	11/13/2019	8260	6.0	ND	ND
NGC	11/13/2019	8260	ND	ND	ND
NGC	2/17/2020	8260	3.6	ND	ND
NGC	2/17/2020	8260	ND	ND	ND
NGC	2/17/2020	8260	3.0	ND	ND
NGC	2/17/2020	8260	ND	ND	ND
NGC	5/19/2020	8260	2.7	ND	ND
NGC	5/19/2020	8260	ND	ND	ND
NGC	6/19/2020	8260	13.6	0.72J	0.72J
NGC	6/19/2020	8260	ND	ND	ND
NGC	6/19/2020	8260	17	NA	ND
NGC	6/19/2020	8260	ND	NA	ND
NGC	8/19/2020	8260	NA	NA	NA
NGC	8/19/2020	8260	ND	ND	ND
NGC	8/19/2020	8260	65.8	4.0	4.0
NGC	8/19/2020	8260	ND	ND	ND

69. DNR and Defendants' behind-the-scenes discussions confirm Defendants violated duties owed to others, including specifically to the Plaintiffs.

70. During one of the first meetings Plaintiffs had with DNR (after their original TCE test in 2018) at DNR's main office in Springfield, David York asked DNR employee Valerie Wilder

why DNR did not let people know earlier about the TCE contamination. Valerie Wilder responded that they did not want to make it public because they did not want to make a panic. Upon information and belief, two of Defendants' employees also attended this meeting.

71. Through a 2021 sunshine request for DNR materials related to the Contamination Site, numerous documents were produced showing communications between DNR and Defendants specifically about the Plaintiffs.

72. For example, during an August 6, 2020, meeting, DNR and Defendants discussed the York and Harvey properties. Ex. C, 8/6/2020 Litton Systems Monthly Coordination Call Agenda/Notes. The Yorks and Harveys were not present for this meeting. *Id.*

73. At the August 6 meeting, DNR and Defendants expressed a desire to perform geophysical tests on the York property. *Id.* Such testing was necessary for future remedial measures because, as discussed above, the DNR and Defendants assumed TCE contamination would flow north and east. The fact that Plaintiffs' properties were south of the Contamination Site and had some of the highest levels of TCE of all the tested wells showed the assumptions that DNR and Defendants had been operating under for decades were incorrect.

74. The tests discussed at this meeting would be intrusive. As a 2020 email produced by the DNR explained "...Northrop Grumman has proposed collecting down hole geophysical data at select locations. As we have discussed, this process will be fairly intrusive for residents as the pump must be removed from the well casing and an alternative supply of water must be provided to the resident." Ex. D, 5/20/2020 DNR email.

75. Rather than purchase the contaminated properties for such admittedly "intrusive" and necessary remedial analyses (again, the DNR and Defendants had for decades assumed that

TCE would flow away from Plaintiffs' properties), Defendants instead tied an offer of running public water lines to Plaintiffs' properties with allowing Defendants the ability to run such tests. Ex. C, 8/6/2020 Monthly Call Notes. However, along with the offered water lines, Plaintiffs would be required to pay monthly bills for water they already were supposed to get for free from their wells. *Id.*

76. Worse, the Defendants and DNR at this meeting stated even the proposal of running water lines might not be feasible for multiple reasons, most notably due to the extent of contamination north of Plaintiffs' properties.

JK – have been in contact w/ Mr. York re concerns. In Nov he said if he had public water that would be OK; he now wants NG to buy his property. Currently working with Mr. Harvey to extend PW to his property. Hope this will give Mr. York incentive to accept. If he does this would allow geophysics on York well.

...

JK - let's see what Mr. Harvey does then evaluate. NG not interested in York property at price quoted. NG policy is that we don't purchase property unless there is use for facility operations or remedial actions.

VW - is there a plan that CDMS has put together that we can possibly provide for mgt.?

JK - Not at this time. They are looking into cost. If cost is reasonable concept is that NG will cover water line installations & owners would pay water bills. Not sure this will be feasible due to north extent of contamination-cost, & owner interest. City has been great to work with

Id.

77. Defendants' proclamation of "NG policy [being] that we don't purchase property unless there is use for facility operations or remedial actions," shows it had a duty to purchase the Plaintiffs' properties. *Id.* The decades' long assumption that TCE from the Contamination Site would only flow north and east was shown to be incorrect. Not only was this assumption incorrect, but Plaintiffs also had some of the highest levels of TCE detected. Defendants

recognized then they had a duty to conduct “intrusive” geophysical tests on Plaintiffs’ property to understand why their previous assumptions were incorrect. Such steps were necessary for “remedial actions,” and, therefore, under Defendants’ own-admitted “policy,” would require purchase of Plaintiffs’ properties. Defendants, however, refused to abide by their own “policy,” showing they violated their duty owed to Plaintiffs and to other residents of Springfield to fully remediate this contamination.

Plaintiffs’ Properties

78. Plaintiffs’ properties are less than a quarter mile from the Contamination Site.

79. Plaintiffs Don and Beverly York purchased their property in 2006. At the time they purchased their property, they were unaware that the former Litton site was contaminated with TCE. Plaintiffs did not learn about the TCE contamination until 2018.

80. During soil testing in 2018, DNR found TCE in the soil at 6’ depth in the Plaintiff’s property.

81. TCE was also found in Plaintiffs’ well water.

82. Prior to discovering TCE on their property, Plaintiffs Don and Beverly York had over \$600,000.00 in purchase and improvements into their property. Had they known of the TCE contamination at the Litton site or on their property, they would not have purchased their property and would not have made any improvements.

83. Plaintiff’s daughter Alisha York-Stradling and her husband Jacob Stradling invested another \$125,000.00 in improvements into the York property before finding out about the TCE contamination. Had they known of the TCE contamination at the Litton site or on their property, they would not have made any improvements.

84. Plaintiffs Jack and Judy Harvey purchased their property in Springfield over 20 years ago. At the time they purchased their property, they were unaware that the former Litton site was contaminated with TCE. The Harvey Plaintiffs did not learn about the TCE contamination of their well water until 2018.

85. Prior to discovering TCE on their property, the Harvey Plaintiffs invested in purchase and improvements into their property. Had they known of the TCE contamination at the Litton site or on their property, they would not have purchased their property and would not have made any improvements.

86. Further, due to Missouri real-estate disclosure laws, Plaintiffs will be unable to sell their property due to need to disclose the contamination.

87. Further, at least one real estate agent has advised Plaintiffs that banks would not offer financing to anyone interested in purchasing their property and that Plaintiffs would likely not receive offers due to the contamination.

88. Plaintiffs Don and Beverly York had intentions of selling their property to Alisha York-Stradling and Jacob Stradling prior to finding out about the contamination. In view of this, Alisha York-Stradling and Jacob Stradling spent a great deal of money on improvements. Due to the contamination, that will not happen and Plaintiffs' investments in the property are now worthless.

89. Plaintiffs are trapped with huge investments that have been destroyed by the TCE contamination and Defendants' handling of the cleanup. Simply having TCE on Plaintiffs' property impacts their ability to sell their property, as well as reduces the value of their property.

90. Further, there are health concerns due to the property. Plaintiffs have for years used well-water now found to be contaminated with unsafe levels of TCE. Plaintiffs are afraid that due to the mismanagement of the Contamination Site, they may be subject to future illnesses.

91. Further, Terry York (Don York's brother) resided on the York property from 2006-2012. While residing there, he drank well water, bathed in well water, washed his clothing in well water, and cooked with well water now found to be contaminated with TCE. After leaving the property, Terry York developed kidney issues. He since passed away. Upon information and belief, TCE from the contamination site was the source of Terry York's kidney issues.

92. Plaintiffs, and those similarly situated, with positive test results for TCE on their property are unable to fully enjoy the use of their property.

93. Due to the inability to directly drink well water, Plaintiffs experience annoyance and discomfort, especially for those that prefer their own-managed well-water to other alternatives. To be clear, Plaintiffs prefer well water.

94. In view of the TCE contamination found in Plaintiffs' wells, Defendants provided filtration systems to both the Yorks and Harveys.

95. These filtration systems changed the taste of the water which Plaintiffs now find less enjoyable than their well water.

96. Defendants provide periodic maintenance to these filtration systems including replacing the carbon in the treatment system with fresh granulated activated carbon. Upon information and belief, the filtration systems require such maintenance to ensure functionality, which necessarily requires Defendants (or their agents) to enter Plaintiffs' property (periodic intrusions which Plaintiffs find annoying but necessary to have filtered water). When

Defendants do so, their analyses confirm that the untreated well is still contaminated with TCE.

97. Should these filtration systems stop working in between the maintenance periods, Plaintiffs would again be exposed to dangerous levels of TCE.

98. Plaintiffs are also fearful that their years of exposure to TCE have or will cause health issues as well.

Defendants Failed to Warn that TCE Had Contaminated the Ozark and Springfield Aquifer and at Least One Known Private Well for Over a Decade.

99. When Plaintiffs purchased the properties at issue in this action, they were unaware that the former Litton Site was contaminated with TCE and that TCE had spread from the site.

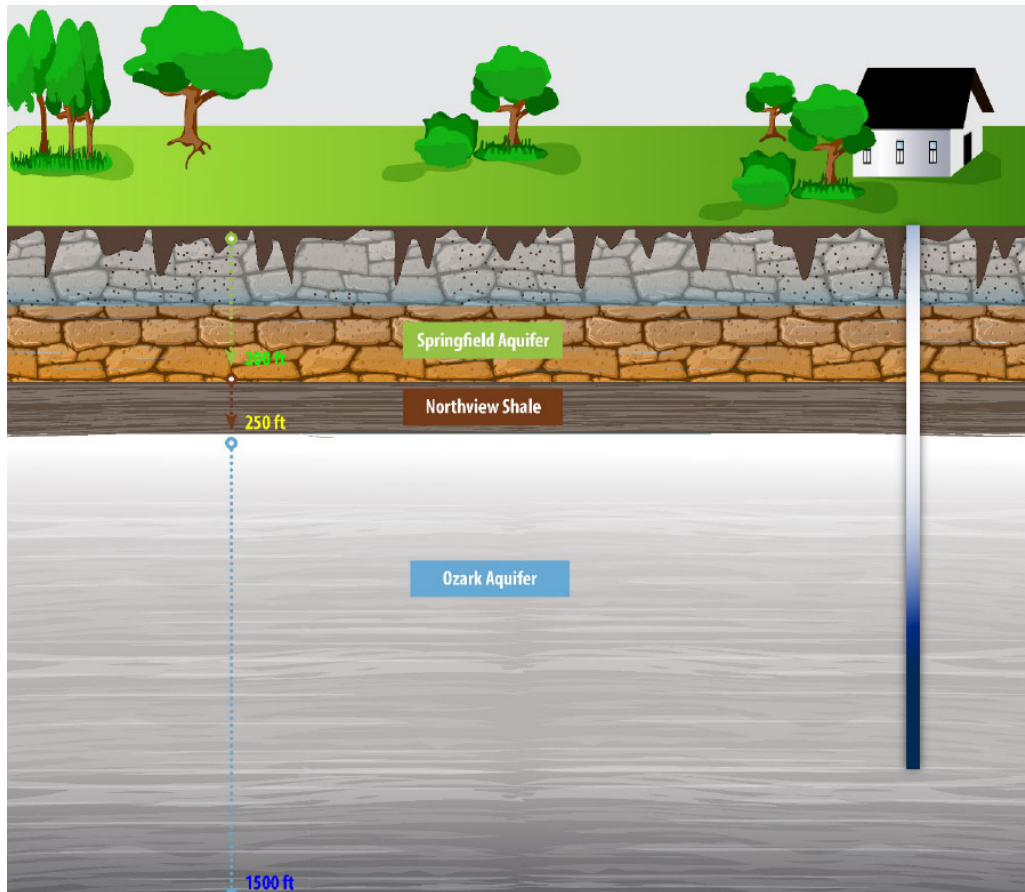
100. At the time Plaintiffs purchased their property and since they have owned it, there has not been signage at the former Litton Site warning of TCE contamination. There currently is no such signage at the Site.

101. Further, Defendants did not notify Plaintiffs or the Classes that at least one private well in the area was known to be contaminated with TCE at the time Plaintiffs and the Classes purchased their properties, made improvements to their properties, and/or used their well water.

102. Upon information and belief, until 2018-2019, Defendants did not inform the Plaintiffs, the Classes, or the public that TCE had spread into the Springfield and Ozark Aquifers, and at least one known “private well.”

103. The Springfield and Ozark Aquifers provide well water to many residents of Springfield, including Plaintiffs and the Classes.

104. An image provided in a 2020 Northrup Grumman report shows how wells from residences are drilled through both aquifers, and therefore, would collect water from one or both aquifers.



Ex. A at 42.

105. Upon information and belief, Defendants were aware that TCE from the Contamination Site had spread into both the Springfield and Ozark Aquifer systems years before publicly announcing such contamination.

106. As can be seen by progress reports made to the DNR, Defendants' remediation efforts—as early as 2011—included extracting and treating contaminated water from the Springfield Plateau Aquifer with plans to begin extracting and treating contaminated water from the Ozark Aquifer—the aquifer used more often for wells in the area.

ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE NEXT REPORTING PERIOD

The following activities are scheduled for April 1, 2011 through June 30, 2011:

- Continue to extract and treat water from the Springfield Plateau Aquifer;
- Continue operation of the ERH system at the OAP treatment area;
- Conduct onsite meeting with MDNR representatives;
- Submit Percolation Terrace and A/B Lagoon RACR;
- Continue EISB progress monitoring of groundwater within the NAP treatment area;
- Continue Pre-ERH EISB activities at the OAP Treatment Area;
- Submit the Sanitary Lagoon FS;
- Submit technical memorandum for the Subfloor RI findings;
- Submit work plan for Ozark Aquifer IRM pump test in support of future extraction and post treatment re-injection; and
- Start Ozark Aquifer pump test activities.

Ex. E, Excerpt from Defendants' "Progress Report for the Period January 1, 2011

Through March 31, 2011" (highlights added).

SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS AND ACTIVITIES PERFORMED DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD

The following activities were initiated and/or continued during this reporting period:

- Continued evaluating building and equipment alterations necessary for the completion of the Ozark Aquifer IRM system;
- Installed the Ozark IRM piping underground from the treatment building to injection well MWO-6;
- Reconfigured MWO-5 well head for a watertight seal with packer airline and sampling ports;
- Completed transformer installation and power drop to the OAP and MW-129;
- Dewatered the Decorative Pond and began removal of sediment in preparation for backfilling;
- Extracted and treated 668,755 gallons of water from the Springfield Plateau Aquifer;

Ex. F, Excerpt from Defendants' "Quarterly Progress Report for the Period October 1

Through December 31, 2012" (highlights added).

107. The only reasonable belief as to why Defendants would extract and treat hundreds of thousands of gallons of water from these aquifers was because they were aware of significant TCE contamination from the Contamination Site.

108. A 2016 report from the Defendants confirms the same.

6.2 OZARK AQUIFER

Wells IW-1, MWO-5, and the Airport deep well APD-1 have historically had detections with VOCs (TCE, cis-1,2 DCE, and 1,2-DCP) above groundwater objectives. The Ozark Aquifer IRM involves extraction from IW-1 and injection of the treated water into MWO-6 (or the City sewer).

MWO-05 and IW-1 were not sampled during 2016 groundwater monitoring event due to construction being done on MWO-05, therefore only APD-1 was sampled in 2016. The data for APD-1 continued to show detections of the contaminants of concern.

Ex. G, Excerpt from 2016 Groundwater Monitoring Report, Vol. I (Dec. 2017) at 6.1

(highlights added).

109. Most shocking, Defendants were sampling a “private well” starting in 2004, and, at least through 2016, detected unsafe TCE levels (above 5 ppb).

6.3 PRIVATE WELL

The untreated sample results for the private well sample collected on July 14, 2016 indicated an influent TCE concentration of 7.6 ppb. Although the VOC results for this well vary over time, the pre-treatment VOC concentrations in the private well have been in a decreasing trend since samples were first collected in 2004. Other private wells sampled during this event were below MCL. See **Appendix F** for a graph of the private well TCE detection trend. The treated water results were below the MCLs for VOCs.

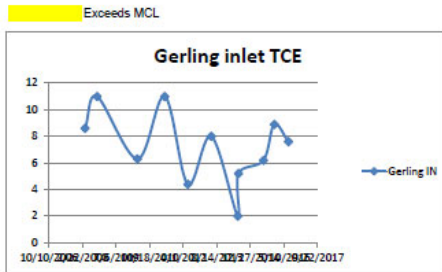
Id. (highlights added).

110. In fact, the “private well” tests showed over a decade of TCE measurements that exceeded MCL.

Appendix F Private Well TCE Detection Trend

TCE Results in ug/L																	
	6/18/2004	11/30/2004	12/14/2004	5/24/2005	9/14/2005	10/12/2007	4/1/2008	9/25/2008	5/19/2010	6/30/2011	6/7/2012	5/23/2013	6/20/2014	7/1/2014	7/9/2015	12/16/2015	7/14/2016
Gerling IN	11.8	14		13			8.6	11	6.3	11	4.4	8	2	5.2	6.2	8.9	7.8
Gerling OUT	N/A	<0.5	NS	<0.5	NS	<0.5	<0.5	0.5	<1.0	0.73	<0.5	<5.0	<1			1	<0.5
Hennessy	2.04	NS	<0.5	2.4	1.8	NS	<0.5	3.4	NS	0.97	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	4.2
Marples	1.42	NS	1.1	0.5	0.5	NS	1.2	1.1	NS	1.3	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	0.68

Cis-1,2 DCE Results in ug/L																	
	6/17/2004 and 6/18/2004	11/30/2004	12/14/2004	5/24/2005	9/14/2005	10/12/2007	4/1/2008	9/25/2008	5/19/2010	6/30/2011	6/7/2012	5/23/2013	6/20/2014	7/1/2014	7/9/2015	12/16/2015	7/14/2016
Gerling IN	1.38	1.9	NS	1.38	NS	NS	0.9	1.2	<1.0	1.5	0.76	<1.0	<1	<1.0	<1.0	1.2	<1.0
Gerling OUT	N/A	<0.5	NS	<0.5	NS	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<5.0	<1	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0
Hennessy	<0.2	NS	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5	NS	<0.5	<0.5	NS	<1.0	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	<1.0
Marples	<0.2	NS	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5	NS	<0.5	<0.5	NS	<1.0	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	<1.0



Id., Appendix F (highlights added).

111. Despite this knowledge, Defendants failed to bring the contamination of the aquifers and of at least one “private well” to the public’s attention until 2018-2019...only after TCE were detected in Fantastic Caverns.

112. Upon information and belief, for years Defendants hid from the public the fact that TCE were in private wells in Springfield.

113. As noted in the report TCE levels in the private well have been allegedly “in a decreasing trend since samples were first collected in 2004.” *Id.* Upon information and belief, Defendants kept the knowledge of private well contamination from the public hoping that as time progressed (and as TCE would disperse through the aquifers) that at some point, the TCE levels would be so diluted, they might fall below the MCL. If it were not for detection of TCE in Fantastic Caverns, TCE contamination in private wells may never have come to light, and the public would still not know about TCE levels in their well water.

114. Further, the fact that the 2004 “private well” has been in a “decreasing tend” confirms that while some recently tested wells are currently below the MCL, they were likely above the MCL prior to their 2018-2019 test dates.

115. For example, documentation confirms that even for some of the recently tested “[w]ells with no TCE detects” there will still TCE “degradation products...detected.” Ex. H, 2/19/2021 Litton Site Discussion outline.

116. It was foreseeable, if not known, that since the Springfield and Ozark Aquifers and at least one “private well” were contaminated with unsafe levels of TCE, that wells within proximity to the Contamination Site would also be contaminated with TCE...some with unsafe levels.

117. During this time, it was foreseeable that since the Plaintiffs, Classes, and the public were unaware of TCE contamination, that Plaintiffs and the Class Members would drink, bathe, wash their clothing, and cook with well water.

118. Upon information and belief, for over a decade, Plaintiffs and the Classes’ well water was contaminated with TCE.

119. Upon information and belief, Plaintiffs and the Classes were exposed to higher levels of TCE than are now found in their wells.

120. The longer people are exposed to unsafe levels of TCE, the more chance they have of becoming ill.

121. As the “responsible parties” for the Contamination Site, Defendants had a reasonable duty to timely inform Plaintiffs, the Classes, and the public about TCE contamination in the Springfield and Ozark Aquifers and in private wells.

122. Defendants breached this duty by withholding such information from the public for years, and only doing so after the discovery of TCE at Fantastic Caverns forced their hand.

123. DNR admitted for itself and necessarily for Defendants that they breached their duty to warn.

“For those people for whom this came as a surprise, especially for those who had TCE in their (water) wells and didn’t know it, I apologize,” Galbraith said. “We didn’t tell people about it in a timely manner. We’re here in part to make amends.”⁷

124. Defendants did not timely warn Plaintiffs or the Classes. Because of this failure to timely warn, Plaintiffs and the Classes were exposed to TCE, at a minimum from their well water, including exposures to higher concentrations of TCE from 2004-2018 than their 2018-2019 positive tests show (in line with the decreasing trend of the 2004 “private well” test). In view of these years of exposure, it is now time for Defendants to make amends.

⁷ “DNR official at public forum: ‘I apologize’ for how Missouri handled TCE pollution,” Springfield News-Leader (2019) from <https://www.news-leader.com/story/news/local/ozarks/2019/03/15/springfield-greene-county-pollution-dnr-tce-litton-systems/3133068002/> (last viewed June 4, 2021).

Class Allegations

125. Plaintiffs bring this action for themselves individually and as representatives of a class of all other similarly situated plaintiffs. Plaintiffs intend to seek certification of four classes: (a) an Owner-Occupant Class and (b) a Tenant Class both of whom used well water on their property any time from 2004 until present within the geographic range where DNR is currently offering free water well testing for TCE and (c) an Owner-Occupant Class and (d) a Tenant Class who have used private wells on their property any time between 2004 until present with a 10-mile radius of the Contamination Site.

126. Plaintiffs initially describe the Well-Water-Testing-Area Owner-Occupant Class as:

All persons who 1) own(ed) or reside(d) on real property in the geographic area of Springfield where DNR is offering free water well testing for TCE and 2) used well water on their property any time from 2004 until present.

127. Plaintiffs initially describe the Well-Water-Testing-Area Tenant Class as:

All persons who 1) are legal tenants and reside(d) on real property in the in the geographic area of Springfield where DNR is offering free water well testing for TCE and 2) used well water on their property any time from 2004 until present.

128. Plaintiffs initially describe the 10-Mile-Radius Owner-Occupant Class as:

All persons who own(ed) or reside(d) on real property within 10 miles of the Contamination Site who have used well water from their property at any time from 2004 until present.

129. Plaintiffs initially describe the 10-Mile-Radius Tenant Class as:

All persons who are legal tenants and reside(d) on real property within 10 miles of the Contamination Site who have used well water from their property at any time from 2004 until present.

130. Plaintiffs expect to further define the above owner-occupant and tenant classes prior to seeking class certification.

131. Excluded from the classes above are Defendants and any of their officers or directors and immediate families, the Court and its immediate family, and any other individuals who have brought individual lawsuits arising from the same allegations against the Defendants.

132. Plaintiffs reserve the right to amend or modify the class definitions and/or to move for certification of a class or classes defined differently than set forth above depending on the facts or law as discovered in this action.

133. The four classes are sufficiently numerous that joinder of all members of the class is impracticable. The exact number and identity of all class members may be ascertained by appropriate discovery, but it is Plaintiffs' belief that the proposed classes comprise at least 74 locations where TCE was found by DNR tests. Class members may be notified of the pending action by email, mail, and by publication, as necessary.

134. There are questions of fact and law common to the class(es), which common questions predominate over questions affecting only individual members. The common questions include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. whether Defendants' conduct caused the spread of TCE from the Contamination Site;
- b. whether Defendants negligently operated the Contamination Site in such a manner that allowed TCE to spread from the site;
- c. whether Defendants' failure to stop or limit the spread of TCE was negligent;
- e. whether TCE spread from the confines of the Contamination Site;
- f. whether the Defendants operated the Contamination Site in a manner, or permitted conditions at the Contamination Site to be such that a nuisance was created;
- g. identification of the precise geographic area of impact of the TCE spread from the Contamination Site;
- h. whether the TCE spread from the Contamination Site constitutes an additional threat of exposure to chemical and/or industrial waste beyond the proximity of the Contamination Site;
- i. when did Defendants become aware that TCE had spread from the contamination site, and

j. the scope of the duties owed by Defendants to those who now have TCE contamination on their properties, including, but not limited to, a duty of reasonable care to prevent spread of TCE and a duty to warn of the spread of TCE.

135. The claims of the representative Plaintiffs are typical of the claims of the members of the classes. Plaintiffs, like all other members of the Classes, have sustained legal injuries arising from Defendants' conduct, as alleged herein. The representative Plaintiffs and the members of the classes have suffered and continue to suffer similar or identical injuries in fact caused by the same unlawful conduct engaged in by Defendants.

136. Plaintiffs can and will fairly and adequately represent the interests of the classes and have no interests that conflict with or are antagonistic to the interests of the class. Plaintiffs have retained attorneys who are highly skilled, competent, and experienced in environmental, complex and class action litigation, and who will vigorously assert the claims on behalf of the class members. No conflict exists between Plaintiffs and the classes. Plaintiffs are willing and able to vigorously prosecute this action on behalf of the classes.

137. The class action is an appropriate method for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy given the following:

- a. common questions of fact and law predominate over any individual questions that may arise, such that the class action mechanism is superior to other available means for the fair and efficient adjudication of this dispute;
- b. there will be enormous economies to the Court and the parties in litigating the common issues in a class action instead of in multiple individual claims;
- c. class treatment is required for optimal resolution of this matter and for limiting the court-awarded reasonable legal expenses incurred by class members;
- d. if the size of individual class members' claims are small, their aggregate volume, coupled with the economies of scale in litigating similar claims on a common basis, will enable this case to be litigated as a class action on a cost-effective basis, especially when compared with the cost of individual litigation; and
- e. the trial of this case as a class action will be fair and efficient because the questions of law and fact which are common to the Plaintiff Class(es) predominate over any individual issues that may arise.

Tolling and Estoppel

138. Plaintiffs' causes of action did not arise until Plaintiffs discovered, or by the exercise of reasonable diligence should have discovered, that they were injured by Defendants' actions. Plaintiffs did not and could not have discovered that other private wells were contaminated with TCE. For example, upon information and belief, only Defendants and DNR were in possession of test results showing that as early as 2004, at least one private well in Springfield tested positive for TCE. Defendants hid such information from the public.

139. Further, Plaintiffs' and the Classes are suffering continuous injury from the Site as TCE still appears in their wells.

140. The applicable statutes of limitations have been tolled by Defendants' knowing and active concealment of the material facts regarding the actual state of TCE contamination in Springfield's aquifers and private wells. Defendants kept Plaintiffs and the members of the Classes ignorant of the vital information essential to pursue their claims, without any fault or lack of diligence on the part of Plaintiffs and Class members.

141. Defendants are and were under a continuous duty to disclose to Plaintiffs and the members of the Classes the true extent of TCE contamination from the Contamination Site. At all relevant times, Defendants concealed the true character, quality, and nature of the TCE contamination spreading from the Contamination Site.

142. Based on the foregoing, Defendants are estopped from relying on any statutes of limitation in defense of this action.

143. Pursuant to the doctrines of Equitable Tolling, Equitable Estoppel, Fraudulent Concealment and the Discovery Rule, the period for bringing claims shall not be barred due

to any statute of limitations or statute of repose. With respect to each cause of action asserted herein, Plaintiffs expressly plead Equitable Tolling, Equitable Estoppel, Fraudulent Concealment and the Discovery Rule and their application thereto.

144. All conditions precedent to the filing of this Complaint have been satisfied. This action has been filed prior to the expiration of any applicable statute of limitations or statute of repose.

Claims

Count I - Negligence (All Four Owner-Occupant and Tenant Classes)

145. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the above paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.

146. Defendants owed and owe a duty to use reasonable care to avoid causing injury to others in the operation and/or remediation of the Contamination Site.

147. Defendants also owed and owe a duty to warn others should TCE spread from the Contamination Site.

148. Defendants owed this duty to Plaintiffs and to the members of the Classes.

149. Based on the proximity of Plaintiffs' and the Classes' property to the Contamination Site, it was reasonably foreseeable that Plaintiffs would be injured by the spread of TCE from the Site, and the failure of Defendants to properly prevent such TCE spread.

150. Defendants breached this duty to Plaintiffs and the Classes by acts and/or omissions, including but not limited to:

- a. Failing to effectively monitor the spread of TCE from the Contamination Site,
- b. Failure to warn others that TCE had spread from the contamination site, and

- c. negligent operation and/or remediation of the Contamination Site in a manner that permitted TCE spread from the Contamination Site.
151. The foregoing negligent act(s) and/or omission(s) by Defendants are the proximate cause of injuries suffered by Plaintiffs and the Classes.
152. Further, the contamination and spread of TCE do not ordinarily occur in the absence of negligence.
153. The Contamination Site is controlled, owned, and operated by Defendants, and has been for at least two decades.
154. Defendants are also legally responsible for the Contamination Site.
155. As of 1982, nearby wells were not contaminated with TCE.
156. In 2004, however, Defendants found at least one “private well” that tested above the MCL for TCE.
157. The spread of TCE from the contamination site to at least private wells is due to Defendants’ actions.
158. Defendants possess and possessed superior knowledge regarding the status of the remediation of TCE at the Contamination Site as well as the spread of TCE from the Contamination Site, including the cause of the spread of TCE from the Contamination Site.
159. Plaintiffs and members of the classes have been injured by Defendants’ negligence as described above. For example, Plaintiffs and members of the Classes are unable to utilize their well-water. Plaintiffs’ injuries also include damage to their use and enjoyment of the property, value of the property, other economic loss and discomfort and annoyance.

160. Defendants were aware that TCE had spread from the contamination site into at least one “private well” for over a decade before informing Plaintiffs and the Class. During this time of inaction on Defendants’ behalf, Plaintiffs and the Classes utilized well water containing TCE. Exposure to unsafe levels of TCE or long-term exposure can cause serious health issues. By failing to timely notify the Plaintiffs and the Classes of the spread of TCE to the Plaintiffs and the Classes attention, Defendants put many at risk of health issues related to TCE.

161. Defendants conduct in failing to remediate the Contamination Site, failing to prevent the spread of TCE, and failure to warn of the spread of TCE is outrageous because of its evil motive, or reckless indifference to the rights of Plaintiffs and those similarly situated.

162. Defendants knew starting in at least 2004 there was a significant risk that Plaintiffs and the Classes would be exposed to TCE, at a minimum through contaminated well water.

163. Defendants violated their duty to provide a reasonable and adequate warning of the dangers inherent and reasonably foreseeable by the spread of TCE from their contamination site, at a minimum to Plaintiffs and the Classes concerning use of Plaintiffs and the Classes’ well water.

164. Plaintiffs, and those similarly situated, each seek punitive damages from Defendants due to their decades-long mismanagement of the Contamination Site, which includes failure to prevent the spread of TCE from the site and failure to warn.

Count II - Temporary Nuisance (All Four Owner-Occupant and Tenant Classes)

165. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the above paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.

166. TCE have emanated from the Contamination Site and reached property leased or owned by Plaintiffs and the Classes, creating a physically harmful nuisance.

167. This contamination is the direct and proximate result of Defendants' intentional, willful and wanton, or negligent conduct in failing to prevent the spread of TCE from the Contamination Site.

168. The contamination is substantial, in many cases exceeding the regulatory limits of TCE in water, thereby depriving Plaintiffs and the Classes from enjoyment of their property, including, but not limited to, enjoyment of their well water.

169. The TCE contamination has substantially impaired Plaintiffs and the Classes' use and enjoyment of their property.

170. The spread of TCE from the Contamination Site after decades of Defendants' failure to remediate the Contamination Site is unreasonable.

171. Plaintiffs and the Classes have been injured by Defendants' nuisance as described above. Their injuries include loss of use and enjoyment of the property, annoyance, discomfort, property value loss, and other economic loss.

172. Moreover, Defendants are knowingly and willfully permitting the nuisance to continue, and Plaintiffs, and those similarly situated, each request punitive damages.

Count III - Continuing Nuisance (All Four Owner-Occupant and Tenant Classes)

173. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the above paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.

174. Defendants' conduct has created a nuisance by causing widespread contamination by TCE.

175. The widespread and significant spread of TCE constitutes an unreasonable and substantial interference with rights common to the public.

176. This unreasonable interference was and is imposed on the Plaintiffs and the Classes.

177. It arises from Defendants' decades-long mismanagement of the Contamination Site, which includes failure to prevent the spread of TCE from the site and failure to warn.

178. The damages here arise due to substantial contamination, in some cases exceeding the regulatory limits of TCE in water, thereby depriving Plaintiffs and the Classes from enjoyment of their property, including, but not limited to, enjoyment of their well water.

179. Defendants have unreasonably interfered with the Plaintiffs and the Classes' right to enjoy their property without toxic interference from Defendants' TCE contamination.

180. Defendants' conduct, as described above, was reckless. Defendants risked the property and health of those owning or renting real property within proximity to the TCE Contamination Site, with knowledge of the severe dangers of TCE spread...knowledge that Defendants suppressed from the public.

181. At a minimum, Defendants withholding the knowledge of the spread of TCE from the unsuspecting public was reckless and warrants an award of punitive damages and injunctive relief.

182. By reason of the foregoing, Defendants are liable to Plaintiffs for compensatory and punitive damages, in amounts to be proved at trial, together with interest, costs of suit, attorneys' fees, injunctive relief, and all such other relief as the Court deems proper.

Count IV – Trespass (All Four Owner-Occupant and Tenant Classes)

183. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the above paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.

184. During the time of Defendants' trespass on Plaintiffs and the Classes' property, Plaintiffs and the Classes were property owners and or tenants of real property.

185. Defendants are the legally responsible parties for the Contamination Site.

186. Defendants directly, intentionally, and physically invaded Plaintiffs and the classes' property and caused substantial damage to Plaintiffs and the Classes' property.

187. The entry by Defendants upon Plaintiffs' property through their failure to stop the spread of TCE from the Contaminated Site was unauthorized.

188. Defendants' TCE contamination has intruded on Plaintiffs and the Classes' property, interfering with Plaintiffs and the Classes' right to exclusive and actual possession of their property with substantial damage to their property.

189. In sum, Defendants have engaged in a chemical trespass to Plaintiffs and the Classes' property.

190. The actions of Defendants and the harm inflicted against Plaintiffs and the class as set forth herein show complete indifference to or conscious disregard for the safety of others, were also reckless, intentional, knowing, malicious, and willful, and entitle Plaintiffs and the Classes to a recovery of punitive damages against Defendants in a fair and reasonable amount.

191. This harm has manifested itself as at least contamination to the Plaintiffs and Classes' water supply.

192. The actions of Defendants and the injuries inflicted against Plaintiffs and the Classes as set forth herein show complete indifference to or conscious disregard for the safety of others, were also reckless, intentional, knowing, malicious, and willful, and entitle Plaintiffs and the Classes to a recovery of punitive damages against Defendants in a fair and reasonable amount.

193. By reason of the foregoing, Defendants are liable to Plaintiffs and the class for compensatory and punitive damages, in amounts to be proved at trial, together with interest, costs of suit, attorneys' fees, injunctive relief, and all such other relief as the Court deems proper.

Count V - Preliminary and Permanent Injunction (All Four Owner-Occupant and Tenant Classes)

194. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the above paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.

195. The Contamination Site and the resulting TCE contamination constitute an ongoing nuisance that will stop only by the action of Defendants.

196. Damages alone are an insufficient remedy for the annoyance, loss of use and enjoyment of property, and possible deleterious health effects of the TCE contamination.

197. Moreover, there is nothing currently in place that would prevent future contamination to spread from the Contamination Site.

198. Absent an injunction, Plaintiffs and the Classes will suffer irreparable injury.

199. Plaintiffs and the Classes have no adequate remedy at law.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully pray that this Court certify the Owner-Occupant, and Tenant Classes described herein, and enter judgment in their favor and against Defendants, jointly and severally, to award compensatory and/or restorative damages, plus punitive or exemplary damages in an amount that is fair and reasonable, plus costs incurred in bringing this suit, and for such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

Dated: September 29, 2021

PEIFFER WOLF CARR KANE & CONWAY

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